



Vindication of Virginia.

The papers following are some of the most valuable contributions to the history of our great war which have, up to the present time, been given to the public. As a complete defense and vindication of Virginia and the South, they ought to be in every Southern household, and their contents ought to be as "familiar as household words" to Southern boys and girls.

In order that their great merits may be more widely known, we reproduce from the "Virginia Magazine" a review by W. W. Scott, whose fine critical judgment and scholarly touch are so well known to the readers of the Confederate Column. Mr. Scott saw service in two of the most famous commands in the Army of Northern Virginia—the Thirteenth Virginia Infantry and the "Black Horse Troop" of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry.

And we follow the review with a notable letter from that eminent man of science, Dr. J. W. Mallet, of the University of Virginia, to Dr. Stuart McGuire. Professor Mallet served first upon the staff of General R. E. Rodes, and subsequently as major of artillery and superintendent of laboratories of the Ordnance Department of the Confederate States. What a source it will be to every old Confederate to learn from one of the foremost men in the scientific world, whose labors and researches have enriched and enlarged the "domain of ordered knowledge," that he "reckons the years of service in the Confederate army the best of his life!"

R. W. H.

The preface and introduction of this tasteful volume constitute in themselves the best review that can be written of the book. It is a republication in handsome and enduring form of the "History Reports" prepared for the Grand Camp of Confederate Veterans of Virginia; the main purpose of them being to prevent the poisoning of the minds of the youth of the South by a protest against the use of sectional and partisan so-called histories in the public and private schools of Virginia and the South.

The protest was timely, the need of it urgent and the effect salutary—though not as complete as may be desired.

Dr. Smith's introduction, in the temperate and judicial tone which characterizes all his writings, is admirable, and constitutes a fitting "foreword" to the reports which follow. In these strenuous days many parents are too much engrossed with the problem of subsistence to have time to supervise the text-books of their children; and had it not been for the recurring Confederate reunions and an occasional monument to the Confederate heroes, the cause so dear to the memories of those who do remember would have been accepted as a "rebellion" in fact, if not actual "treason," by many of the younger generations. We had "school marm's" from "over the border," occasionally, in addition to the insidious "histories" that were used in the schools—and the revolt on the part of the Confederates against such teachings through the action of their "camps" came none too soon.

While we can not indorse all the strictures on John Fluke's historical writings, it can not be gainsaid that on the whole these "reports" are temperate and conservative and have effected wholesome and patriotic results. Judge Christian's vindication of the part Virginia played in the war, rendered almost necessary by the too much vaunting of a bordering State, is wholly conclusive and highly gratifying; and Dr. McGuire's two papers on Stonewall Jackson are beyond praise. No old Confederate, no loyal child of any old Confederate, can read them without emotions of pride—though the tears fall while the heart swells.

The book ought to be in the home of every family which cherishes the memories of Virginia at her best, for the "Reports," taken as a whole, thoroughly vindicate both the cause and the conduct of the war on the part of the South.

As is well known, Dr. McGuire was the medical director of Jackson's Corps, and the confidential friend and physician of his great chieftain, whom he attended in his last hours; and Judge Christian was a gallant officer in that immortal army that so long carried the fortunes of the Confederacy on its bayonets.

Statements from them are words of truth and soberness, and carry conviction in their utterance; yet they have not failed to verify them by the official records.

It would be most appropriate for the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy to constitute themselves general agents for the wide distribution of this book.

W. W. SCOTT.

Dr. Mallet's Letter.

University of Virginia.

March 3, 1908.

Dr. Stuart McGuire, Richmond:

Dear Dr. McGuire—Thank you very

heartily for the copy you have been

good enough to send me of "The Confederate Cause and Conduct in the War Between the States."

Confederate Editor.

Major Robert W. Hunter, the "Secretary of Virginia Records," will hereafter edit the Confederate Column of the Times-Dispatch.

All communications should be addressed to him, care Times-Dispatch.

I value the book highly, both on account of the kind remembrance of the giver and because the papers it contains are among the strongest presentations I have ever seen of the righteousness of the cause of the South.

In the memorable struggle, these papers are full, not of declamation, but of evidence. Their republication is valuable now, and grateful to any one who, like myself, reckons the years of service in the Confederate army the best of his life—not so much as argument against misrepresentation as for their tendency to check the rising tide of forgetfulness and indifference. I hope I may be wrong, and misled myself.

R. W. H.

The Late Captain John H. Borst.

Died in Washington, D. C., on Saturday, October 3, 1908, at the age of seventy-six years, John Becker Borst II., a soldier of the Confederacy and a citizen of Culpeper county, Virginia.

Mr. Borst, captain of the 4th Virginia Cavalry, which settled in Albany county, New

York, in 1770. He was the fourth son of the late Hon. Peter I. Borst, and grandson of Joseph Borst, Jr., of Revolutionary fame.

With his younger brother, Addison, he came in his youth to Virginia, where they made a home, the late Peter B. Borst, who was a member of the Secession convention in 1861, had preceded them. John and Addison joined Company K, Captain Young, which was organized at Luray, Va., in that year. John never married, and remained a bachelor, with the rank of captain, of the Tenth Virginia Infantry. He stood by his beloved Colonel Simon Gibbons, of that regiment, when he fell at Antietam.

Mr. Borst was with General Robert Edward Lee in every engagement except two small skirmishes of the incomparable Army of Northern Virginia.

A man of heroic mould in character and physique, he bore hardships with a stern contempt of complaint. He is survived by one son, Eugene Augustus Borst, a prominent civil engineer of Washington, D. C., and four daughters—Mrs. Charles Meier, Mrs. McKeen, and Misses Mae and Beulah Borst.

Mr. Borst, who was a member of the national capital, at heart an unconquerable soldier of the South.

"He fought with Jackson and with Lee!"

The fairest pearls of chivalry.

That gem the coronet of fame.

The boldest knights that ever led.

A host through fields blood-wet and red.

Where freedom knelt beside her dead.

And hid her weeping eyes in shame.

He fought with Jackson and with Lee!

O, glorious epitome!

With valor's sword and honor's shield.

Throughout those desolating years.

Of waste and want and grief and tears.

With valor's sword and honor's shield.

He stood and fought on Freedom's field.

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